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FLOOR DEBATE

March 28, 2006 LB 1226

could be based on the greater of the applicable permit amount, or the greatest amount of annual use during the 20-year period. A municipality that does not have an allocation in place as of November 1, 2005, may have the greater of either the amount of groundwater authorized pursuant to permit issued by the department or the governmental, commercial and industrial use of the municipality, plus a per capita allowance as its minimum allowance. The per capita allowance would be based on a location and would range from not less than 200 gallons per person per day to not less than 250 gallons per person per day. Prior to January 1, 2026, any new or expanded industrial or commercial development served by a municipality in a fully appropriated or overappropriated area that results in the consumptive use of water in amounts greater than 25 million gallon annually may be subject to controls. Prior to January 1, 2026, consumptive use of water by a municipality that results in a decrease in stream flow would be required to be addressed by the integrated management plan, pursuant to controls or incentive programs that would not affect the municipal allocations. Sections 4 and 30 contain provisions allowing natural resource districts that contain river basins, subbasins, or reaches that have been declared fully appropriated to increase their levy by a limit of up to three cents for 2006-2007, and by two cents for each of the following two years. Section 6 creates a storm water management plan program. It allows 80 percent of the fund to be used to provide grants to cities and counties in urbanized areas, and 20 percent of the fund to be used to provide grants to cities and counties outside the urbanized area, and requires a 20 percent match for those funds by the municipalities and counties. Section 20 creates the Interrelated Water Management Plan Program to provide grants to natural resource districts for assistance in carrying out their duties under the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act and requires a 20 percent match for those funds by the natural resource districts. I think the important part of this amendment is the municipal water bill. Certainly, when we passed LB 962 we didn't know all the ramifications, and I think the Water Policy Task Force worked hard to address those. The municipalities are satisfied with what we've done; they support what we've done. It does guarantee water for our municipalities. Certainly, Omaha and Lincoln had